

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANA 04152 221858Z
ACTION NEA-10

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S E C R E T SANA 4152

STADIS////////////////////////////////

NEA/ARP - EYES ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP (SIKES, ROBERT AND FLYNT, JOHN), MASS, YE, US
SUBJ: CODEL SIKES AND FLYNT

1. SEPTTEL DISCUSSES CODEL SIKES AND FLYNT VISIT TO YEMEN. FOR DEPARTMENT BACKGROUND, WISH TO PASS ON THAT SIKES INTENDS ADDRESS ISSUE OF YEMEN ARMS FROM "FLOOR OF HOUSE" AND SAYS FURTHER THAT HE WILL TRY TO INTORDUCE SENSE OF CONGRESS RESOLUTION AT TIME OF COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL. RESOLUTION WOULD EXPRESS CONCERN FOR PERIL OF YEMEN AND ENDORSE MILITARY SUPPLY WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAIL. SIKES, HOWEVER, THINKS RESOLUTION SHOULD BE "STRONG ONE."

2. SIKES WAS CRITICAL OF LACK OF BRIEFING WHICH STATE DEPARTMENT HAS DONE IN CONGRESS IN AFTERMATH OF COUP. HE CITED, IN PARTICULAR, UNHAPPINESS THAT BRIEFING HE RECEIVED JUST PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE FOR AREA DID NOT INCLUDE ANY MENTION OF US MILITARY PACKAGE PUT TOGETHER TWO WEEKS AGO AND THEN REJECTED BY YARG.

3. SIKES BELIEVES THAT CONGRESS IS LOOKING FOR ISSUES
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WHERE ARMS SALES MIGHT BE USED TO SHORE UP FRIENDS FACING COMMUNIST THREAT. EMBASSY STAFF MEMBERS DID EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO POINT OUT DANGERS WE SAW IN PROVIDING EQUIPMENT WHICH COULD NOT BE USED AND MIGHT PROVOKE A COUNTER-RESPONSE, BUT DID NOT ATTEMPT TO DISSUADE HIM FROM VALUE OF EQUIPMENT MODERNIZATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM IN YAR. WE BELIEVE HE HAS

BALANCED VIEW AS RESULT OF HIS VISIT HERE.

4. SIKES IS ALSO INTERESTED IN PURSUING POSSIBILITIES
OF PROVIDING ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY
TITLE I, FOOD AID, AND FUNDING FOR FEASIBILITY STUDIES.
OCCURS TO US -- ALTHOUGH WE DIDN'T SAY SO TO SIKES
AND FLYNT -- THAT THIS COULD BE ALTERNATIVE TO FUNDING
MAP OR MILITARY CREDITS.
RANSOM

SECRET

NNN

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